

## Counselor Academy 2014

National Manufacturing Day, Friday, October 3, 2014 kicked off the annual Counselor Academy with industry tours for high school and middle school counselors from throughout Region 7, coordinated by the Western Indiana Workforce Investment Board team. Counselors were treated to in-depth views of Sony DADC, Clabber Girl and Thyssen-Krupp Presta to learn the inner workings of manufacturing facilities in the Region. These tours gave the counselors valuable insight into what career options are available locally to their students once they graduate.

Counselors also met at area schools during the month of October to further their education in the realm of career pathway options available to their students. Many of the sessions included hands-on learning opportunities for the counselors, as the students and their instructors guided counselors through examples of what students experience during these courses.

The capstone to the 2014 Counselor Academy in Region 7 was on October 30 at Ivy Tech Community College Wabash Valley Industrial Park campus. Top Notch and area union trades presented counselors with information on apprenticeship programs and opportunities for students to learn more about their organizations. Counselors were able to speak one-on-one with union trades representatives after viewing a presentation by Top Notch Executive Director Michelle Boyd. In addition, counselors were treated to a tour of the Ivy Tech Community College Wabash Valley Industrial Park campus facility and heard more about dual college credit options for their students.

Feedback from counselors who have participated in the annual Counselor Academy program has been extremely favorable. Counselors truly appreciate the additional information about career pathways, as well as the opportunity to discuss employment opportunities with industry representatives.

*Region 7 hosted its first Counselor Academy in the Vigo County School Corporation eight years ago as part of a Moving Forward grant, and has continued the Academy annually since that time. The Counselor Academy in its current incarnation includes all middle and high school counselors from each of the six counties located within the Region.*



